

Superior Court of California

Hall of Justice 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT CELEBRATES COURT ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY MONTH

The Ventura Superior Court will celebrate "Court Adoption and Permanency Month" with a special adoption calendar to be held on Friday, November 3, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom J1 at the Juvenile Courthouse in El Rio. Adoptions will be finalized for several children and *Certificates of Family Membership* will be presented. The Juvenile Courthouse is located at the Judge Steven Z. Perren Juvenile Justice Complex, 4353 E. Vineyard Avenue, El Rio. The event is open to the public.

On behalf of the Judicial Council of California, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald M. George has proclaimed November as a month dedicated to further improving administration of justice for proceedings involving children and families. To promote Court Adoption and Permanency Month, the Ventura Superior Court will place a strong emphasis on permanency planning and adoptions throughout the month of November.

In addition to the special adoption calendar on November 3, an Adoption and Permanency Information Fair will be held at the Pacific View Mall in Ventura on Saturday, November 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members of the community are invited to attend and speak with representatives from organizations that provide services and support to foster and adoptive parents.

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Each year in California there are more than 500,000 reports of child abuse and neglect, approximately 29,000 children enter foster care, and almost 79,000 children are living apart from their families in out-of-home care. Thirty-two percent of the children in foster care in California have been away from their families in out-of-home care for four years or more. Of the more than 36,000 children in foster care between January and December 2005, 54 percent were reunited with their families and 21 percent were adopted.

Individuals interested in obtaining more information on adoptions may contact the Human Services Agency at (805) 240-2759 and ask for the Adoptions Officer of the Day.